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A COOL AUGUST EVENING IN GOTHAM CITY, A NIGHT FILLED WITH THE USUAL URBAN SOUNDS: CAR HORNS, THE RUMBLE OF THE ELEVATED TRAINS, THE FAR-OFF WAIL OF A TUGBOAT IN GOTHAM BAY, THE LOW AND EVER-PRESENT MURMUR OF VOICES...
ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN®
CREATED BY BOB KANE
AND THEN, IN THE MIDST OF THE USUAL, THE UNUSUAL--
WHOOP
--A DULL, DISTANT THUMP OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES, AND THE FOLLOWING ROAR OF EXPANDING FLAMES...
"DEATH-GAMBLE OF A DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE!"
GERRY CONWAY WRITER
JOHN CALNAN & DAVE HUNT ARTISTS
BEN ODA LETTERER
JERRY SERPE COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
S-2956

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SEE--? I TOLD YOU HE'D BE HERE! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF!
THANATOS IS RIGHT! IT'S HIM--
-- THE BATMAN!
RAKATAKATAK
HE MOVES LIKE A CREATURE CUT FROM THE CLOTH OF NIGHT, THIS COWLED CRUSADER, AND WITHOUT A WORD, HE STRIKES--
KRAK!
--DODGES--
CHAKTARAKTARAK
--AND STRIKES AGAIN!
WHUINNN
CHUMP
DON'T MUFF IT, YOU IDIOTS! USE THE GRENADES--!
BLOW HIM AWAY!
BRATATA!
3

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FROM THE DC SUPER-HERO SUPER-STARS!

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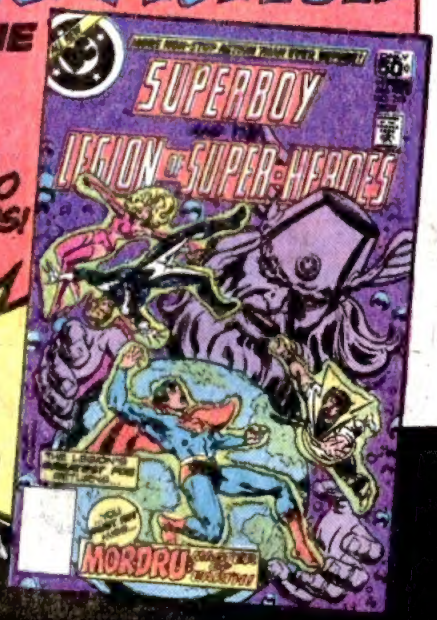

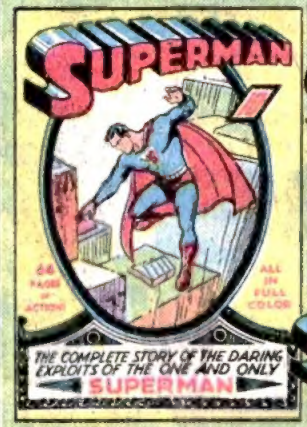

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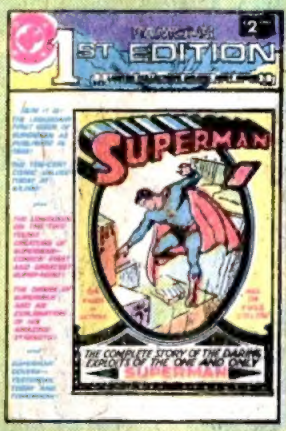

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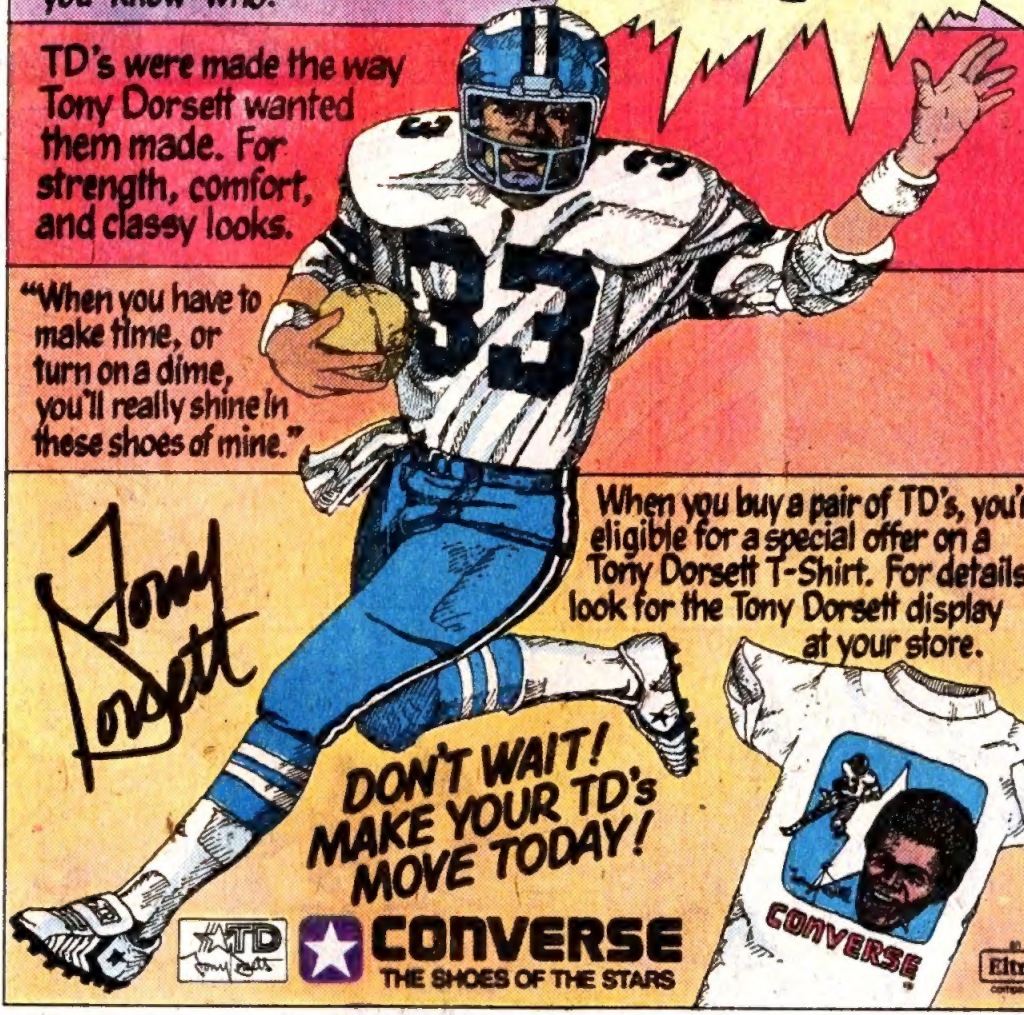

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TD

CONVERSE

THE SHOES OF THE STARS

Eltra company

TINK
CHUNK
WOOM
IS HE DEAD?
HE SHOULD BE, BUT IF HE'S NOT, HE WILL BE SOON--
--ALONG WITH THE EIGHT MILLION OTHER HAPPY CITIZENS OF GOTHAM CITY!

SOME TIME LATER...
...HE'S COMING AROUND. TELL THE PARAMEDICS THEY CAN PACK IT IN!
IT TAKES MORE THAN AN ARMY SALVAGE GRENADE TO KILL THE BATMAN!
COMMISSIONER--?
EASY, OLD FRIEND. BETWEEN YOU AND ME, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE ALIVE!
ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, IF YOU HADN'T KNOCKED THAT PINEAPPLE INTO THE AIR, BOTH YOU AND THE DEATH'S-HEAD GROUP WOULD NOW BE A PERMANENT PART OF THE SIDEWALK!
THEN IT WAS THE DEATH'S-HEAD? NO DOUBT ABOUT IT?
RESCUE NO. 6
NONE! WE'VE GOT DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR UNIFORMS FROM THE WITNESSES, AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, FARREL HERE EXAMINED THE BOMB FRAGMENTS--
--AND THEY'RE DEFINITELY THE WORK OF THE DEATH'S-HEAD!
CHIEF
I THOUGHT IT WAS THEM, BUT IN ALL THE SMOKE, I COULDN'T BE CERTAIN!
TEN BOMBINGS IN TEN WEEKS! FOR GOD'S SAKE, COMMISSIONER, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO CATCH THOSE MADMEN?
WHEN THEY MAKE A MISTAKE, FARREL! SO FAR, THEY'VE BEEN CAREFUL--
CHIEF
--BOMBING BANKS, FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDINGS, COURTHOUSES --STRIKING TERROR INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY--
--ALL WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE CLUE! ALL WE KNOW IS THEIR NAME, THE DEATH'S-HEAD! BEYOND THAT-- NOTHING!
ER'S BANK
NOT QUITE "NOTHING"! TONIGHT THEY BROKE THEIR PATTERN...THEY STOLE SOMETHING!
ONCE WE LEARN WHAT THEY STOLE, WE MAY LEARN WHAT THEY WANT!
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, MY FRIEND...THEY WANT YOU DEAD!
5

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YOU--AND ALL OTHER SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION! THE DEATH'S-HEAD BELIEVES IN THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE CAPITALIST POLITICAL ORDER!
AND YOU, BATMAN, ARE THE ULTIMATE REPRESENTATION OF THAT ORDER--SI?
AN INTERESTING THEORY, MS.--?
LINA MULLER OF THE ITALIAN PRESS! I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS GROUP ON THEIR WANDERINGS ACROSS THE WORLD, BATMAN!
IN MY HUMBLE WAY, I'VE BECOME AN EXPERT ON THEM!
MS. MULLER IS HERE TONIGHT AT MY REQUEST, BATMAN, SHE'S BEEN IN GOTHAM SEVERAL WEEKS, COVERING THE BOMBINGS FOR HER LOCAL NEWSPAPER!
YES, I RECALL READING ABOUT YOU IN THE SOCIETY COLUMNS, MS. MULLER. YOU'VE BEEN SEEN QUITE A BIT WITH BRUCE WAYNE!
AN INTRIGUING MAN! IN FACT, I WILL BE DINING WITH HIM TONIGHT, ON GOTHAM ISLE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE DEATH'S-HEAD WILL DO NOW, MS. MULLER?
NOW--? I BELIEVE THEY WILL--AS YOU AMERICANS SAY--LIE LOW FOR A FEW DAYS. THEY WILL NEED TO REGROUP, TO PLAN.
THEN--ANOTHER BOMBING, PERHAPS? SOME OTHER ACT OF TERRORISM?
WHO MAY SAY? THEY ARE DRIVEN MEN--AND SUCH MEN ARE ALWAYS UNPREDICTABLE!
DO YOU THINK SHE'S RIGHT?
PROBABLY. WE'LL KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE WE FIND OUT WHAT THEY STOLE FROM THIS LAB.
IN ANY CASE, I'VE DONE ALL I CAN FOR TONIGHT.
BATMAN, BEFORE YOU GO--YOU TOOK AN AWFUL CHANCE, ATTACKING THOSE SIX TERRORISTS ALONE! WE CAN'T RISK HAVING YOU KILLED BY--
COMMISSIONER, I NEVER TAKE CHANCES!
BUT THEY HAD MACHINE GUNS--GRENADES--!
THEY WERE ALSO WEIGHTED DOWN WITH THEIR "LOOT," HAMPERING THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT! AND ONE THING MORE--
6

--I HAD THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
A TUG OF RIPPLING MUSCLES, A SWIRL OF BLACK CAPE, AND IN AN INSTANT, THE CLOAKED FIGURE IS ONCE MORE A PART OF THE NIGHT...
ONE HALF-HOUR LATER, THE ROOF GARDEN OF THE PENTHOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE DRESSED, SIR? MS. MULLER WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT...
I'VE A FEELING MS. MULLER WILL BE DELAYED, ALFRED.
DID YOU READ THIS ARTICLE I MARKED IN THE FINANCIAL SECTION?
OF THE GAZETTE? YES, SIR, I DID. RATHER ODD...
SIX OF GOTHAM'S SHARPEST BUSINESSMEN, ALL LOSING THEIR COMPANIES AND FORTUNES INSIDE A WEEK!
PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER HOW THEY LOST THEIR FORTUNES, ALFRED.
IT DOES STRIKE ONE AS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE.
GOTHAM GAZETTE
EACH MAN MADE AN INCREDIBLY BAD BUSINESS DECISION, TAKING RIDICULOUS RISKS, GAMBLING WITH STOCKHOLDERS' MONEY. IT'S AS THOUGH THEY EACH LOST THEIR BUSINESS SENSE OVERNIGHT!
AND IN EACH CASE, THERE'S A COMMON DENOMINATOR, UNREPORTED IN THE ARTICLE--SOMETHING I LEARNED AS BRUCE WAYNE!
THE NIGHT BEFORE THOSE MEN STARTED MAKING THEIR BAD DECISIONS, THEY EACH SEPARATELY VISITED GOTHAM ISLE!
THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING MY OWN PILGRIMAGE TO GOTHAM'S NEWEST RESORT--WITH LINA! I'VE GOT TWO THEORIES TO CHECK OUT--
--AND I MIGHT AS WELL HIT BOTH WITH THE SAME--HMMM?
ARRRRINNNG
THE DOORBELL SIR. MS. MULLER, NO DOUBT.
THEN, BY ALL MEANS, ALFRED, LET THE LADY IN. WITH ANY LUCK, THIS WILL BE A NIGHT WE'LL BOTH REMEMBER FOR A VERY LONG TIME!

GOTHAM ISLE: HOME OF THE MOST LAVISH MECHANIZED HOTEL IN THE HISTORY OF INN-KEEPING, THE GOTHAM STARSCRAPER...

TWO MONTHS AGO, THIS ISLAND IN GOTHAM BAY WAS THE SCENE OF A DEADLY BATTLE BETWEEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE DREAM MACHINE OF DOCTOR DESTINY*...

* AS TOLD IN JUSTICE LEAGUE #154! -- JULIE

TONIGHT, IT IS THE SCENE OF A MORE CHARITABLE KIND OF CONFLICT, BETWEEN THE WOULD-BE GAMBLERS OF GOTHAM'S UPPER CRUST--

--AND THE SPECTACULAR CASINO OF THE NEWLY-DUBBED "LAS VEGAS ON THE BAY"!

HOW POSITIVELY BOURGEOIS, BRUCE. GAMBLING FOR CHARITY--

--IN A CITY WHERE GAMBLING IS ILLEGAL!

THE GOTHAM CITY COUNCIL PASSED A BILL PERMITTING LIMITED GAMBLING AT THE STARSCRAPER LINA, AND ONLY FOR ONE MONTH.

ORIGINALLY, THE HOTEL WAS PLANNED AS A COMBINATION LUXURY AND TOURIST-CLASS RESORT, WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED--

--BUT WHEN DOCTOR DESTINY ALTERED THE BUILDING PLANS TO INCORPORATE HIS OWN DEVICES, HE MADE THE HOTEL UNINHABITABLE.

THE WAYNE FOUNDATION TOOK THE PLACE OVER, AND WE'RE TRYING TO TURN IT INTO A SPA FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED--

--BUT THAT TAKES MORE MONEY THAN THE FOUNDATION CAN PROVIDE ALONE.

AND SO YOU HAVE THIS GAMBLING!

IT'S A WAY FOR GOTHAM'S RICH TO CONTRIBUTE AND HAVE FUN AT THE SAME TIME. LIKE ALL GAMBLING OPERATIONS, THE ODDS FAVOR THE HOUSE!

CARE TO TRY?

OF COURSE!

FOR THE NEXT HOUR, THE ITALIAN NEWSWOMAN LOSES HERSELF IN THE THRILL OF GAMBLING, WHILE GOTHAM'S BEST-KNOWN SOCIALITE LOOKS ON...

HIS EYES ROAM THE CROWDED ROOM, BUT HE FINDS NOTHING AMISS...

THEN, DURING A LULL IN A GAME OF ROULETTE--

YOU TRY, BRUCE... YOU MUST! AS YOU SAY, IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE!
GAMBLING'S NOT MY STYLE, LINA, BUT IF YOU INSIST...
...FIFTY ON THE RED THREE.
HIM.! THAT'S BRUCE WAYNE, ONE OF THE CITY'S WEALTHIEST.!
USE THE FORTU-TRON!
USE IT... NOW!
NO MORE BETS, PLEASE. THE WHEEL IS IN MOTION--
ZZZZAMM
--IT'S STOPPING--
-- ON THE BLACK FIVE. BLACK FIVE IS THE WINNER!
I... LOST? BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE! I CAN'T LOSE! I'LL DOUBLE MY BET--!
THE NEXT MOMENTS ARE A FEVERISH NIGHTMARE, AS BRUCE WAYNE SEEMS TO LOSE ALL CONTROL OVER HIS GAMBLING INSTINCT...
WILDLY, FRANTICALLY, HE BETS AGAIN AND AGAIN, TAKING CHANCES LIKE A MAN POSSESSED...
AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN, THE HOUSE ODDS WIN OUT... AND BRUCE WAYNE CONTINUES TO LOSE, UNTIL--
9
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

ADVERTISEMENT

GREEN LANTERN vs. MIRROR MASTER

GREEN LANTERN HAS CAUGHT UP TO THAT ARCH-VILLAIN-- MIRROR MASTER AND CREATES A PRISON CELL WITH HIS POWER RING.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET SEVEN YEARS OF BAD LUCK, MIRROR MASTER.

NOT SO FAST, RING-A-LING.

BUT MIRROR MASTER REFLECTS BACK THE PRISON BEAM ONTO GREEN LANTERN!

MIRROR, MIRROR ON MY CHEST, SHOW GREEN LANTERN I'M THE BEST. HA HA.

THE JOKE'S ON YOU, GREENIE...

QUICK, THE HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES FOR OUR PARTY. TWINKIES ARE GOLDEN YELLOW CAKE. AND YELLOW STOPS GREEN LANTERN'S BEAM.

KIDS, YOU SHATTERED MIRROR MASTER'S CRIME PATTERN. YOU DESERVE YOUR TWINKIES CAKES.

I LOVE THE MOIST, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE.

I LOVE THE CREAMED-FILLING EVEN MORE THAN HELPING YOU, GREEN LANTERN.

ENJOY IT, MIRROR MASTER! YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO REFLECT ON THE GREAT TASTE OF TWINKIES CAKES.

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NO. 161 DEC.
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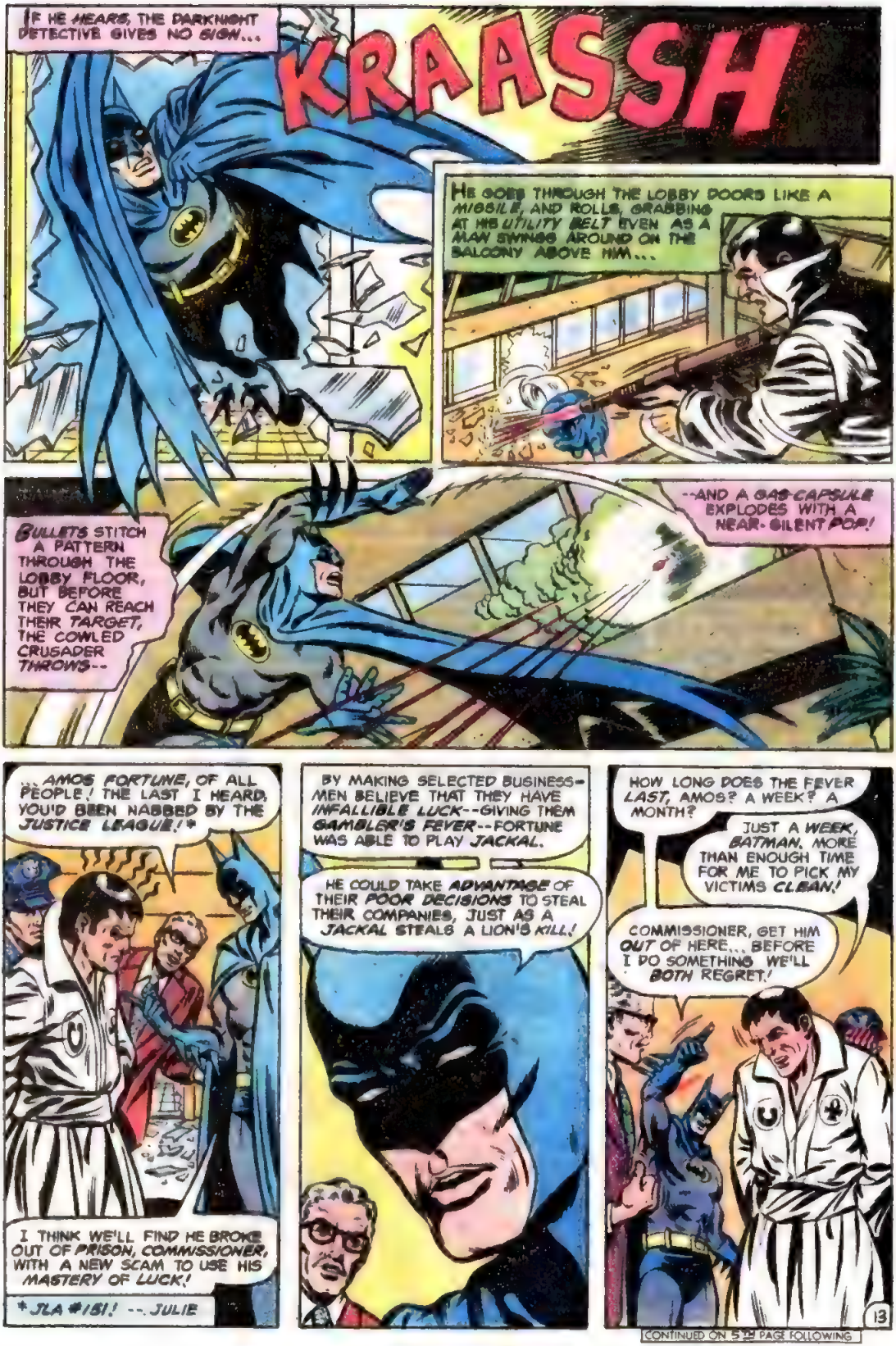
ZATANNA
JOINS
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!!
...OR DOES SHE?
UNCOVER HER STARTLING SECRET in JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA #161...
ON SALE SEPTEMBER 5th!

--I'M SORRY, MR. WAYNE, BUT YOU'VE BET THE LIMIT. NO PATRON IS PERMITTED TO LOSE MORE THAN $1,000 IN ONE NIGHT.
BUT I CAN WIN, I KNOW I CAN! JUST ONE MORE BET--
PLEASE, BRUCE, IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME.
FOR LINA MULLER, HOME IS THE GOTHAMITE HOTEL...
YOU SEEM DISTRESSED, BRUCE. IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME WITH YOU RICH MEN-- THE PRESSURE OF YOUR WEALTH, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, MY DARLING. IT WILL SERVE YOU WELL.
AND TOMORROW... PERHAPS WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, SI?
THE PLAYBOY IS SILENT--
--AND AS THEY PART, HE BRIEFLY CLASPS THE WOMAN'S HAND WITH HIS OWN, AS THOUGH SEEKING REASSURANCE.
A MOMENT LATER, HE IS GONE, LIKE A CREATURE CUT FROM THE CLOTH OF NIGHT...
NEXT EVENING: THE DOWNTOWN OFFICE OF GOTHAM'S COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, THE HONORABLE JAMES W. GORDON...
KRASH!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--?
10

SORRY ABOUT THE WASTEBASKET, COMMISSIONER, BUT I HAD TO GET THIS TO YOU RIGHT AWAY!
CHECK THIS WITH INTERPOL! IT MAY GIVE US--
BATMAN, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? BURSTING THROUGH MY WINDOW--
--LIKE SOME CRAZY HOTRODDER? SUPPOSE SOMEONE HAD BEEN STANDING THERE, INSTEAD OF A WASTEBASKET?
NONSENSE! I DON'T TAKE RISKS!
YOU TOOK A TERRIBLE RISK--
LAST NIGHT, I BELIEVED YOU. NOW, I'M NOT SO SURE.
WELL, BE SURE, COMMISSIONER, IF I WANT TO GAMBLE WITH MY LIFE, THAT'S MY BUSINESS!
BATMAN, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU. COME BACK INSIDE, AND WE'LL GET SOME COFFEE, TALK A--
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK! NOT WITH DEATH'S-HEAD STILL ON THE LOOSE!
RUN THAT CHECK WITH INTERPOL, AND I'LL CALL YOU LATE--
MISSED THE FLAGPOLE--?!
AN INSTANT OF PARALYSIS OF WAKING REALIZATION! THEN, SUPERB REFLEXES COME INTO PLAY --
--AND THE BATMAN DOES THE NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE...
11

SKRASSH
MAYBE WE'D BETTER HAVE THAT COFFEE AFTER ALL!
ONE HOUR LATER, ON GOTHAM ISLE...
--LEAVE YOUR MEN HERE, COMMISSIONER! THIS IS MY SHOW!
THE DEVIL IT IS! I SAW HOW YOU ALMOST FLATTENED YOURSELF OUTSIDE MY OFFICE. IF YOUR SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT--
--YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
MEANING--?
YOU SAY YOU WERE HERE LAST NIGHT IN YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, AND THAT SOMEHOW, YOU WERE INFECTED WITH GAMBLER'S FEVER!
JUST LIKE THE SIX BUSINESSMEN WHO LOST THEIR FORTUNES-- YOU'LL TAKE ANY RISK, NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS!
THEY LOST THEIR MONEY! YOU CAN LOSE YOUR LIFE!
YOU MADE YOUR POINT! AND WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MAD "GAMBLER'S FEVER" IS IN THE STARSCRAPER HOTEL!
LET'S GET HIM!
ABRUPTLY--
MACHINE-GUN FIRE! SCATTER-- AND GET DOWN!
BATMAN! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
CHUNK CHUNK
TAKATAKATAKA!
VIP VIP VIP VIP
12


IF HE HEARS, THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE GIVES NO SIGN...
KRAASSH
HE GOES THROUGH THE LOBBY DOORS LIKE A MISSILE, AND ROLLS, GRABBING AT HIS UTILITY BELT EVEN AS A MAN SWINGS AROUND ON THE BALCONY ABOVE HIM...
BULLETS STITCH A PATTERN THROUGH THE LOBBY FLOOR, BUT BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THEIR TARGET, THE COWLED CRUSADER THROWS--
--AND A GAS CAPSULE EXPLODES WITH A NEAR-SILENT POP!
...AMOS FORTUNE, OF ALL PEOPLE! THE LAST I HEARD, YOU'D BEEN NABBED BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!*
I THINK WE'LL FIND HE BROKE OUT OF PRISON, COMMISSIONER, WITH A NEW SCAM TO USE HIS MASTERY OF LUCK!
* JLA #181! --JULIE
BY MAKING SELECTED BUSINESSMEN BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE INFALLIBLE LUCK--GIVING THEM GAMBLER'S FEVER--FORTUNE WAS ABLE TO PLAY JACKAL.
HE COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR POOR DECISIONS TO STEAL THEIR COMPANIES, JUST AS A JACKAL STEALS A LION'S KILL!
HOW LONG DOES THE FEVER LAST, AMOS? A WEEK? A MONTH?
JUST A WEEK, BATMAN. MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO PICK MY VICTIMS CLEAN!
COMMISSIONER, GET HIM OUT OF HERE... BEFORE I DO SOMETHING WE'LL BOTH REGRET!
13
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#004 $1.25

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Wind it up. Wear it on your finger like a ring & give your friends the S-H-O-C-K of their life! $1.00
SNAPPING CHEWING GUM #904 $1.00
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STINK LOADS #513 $1.00
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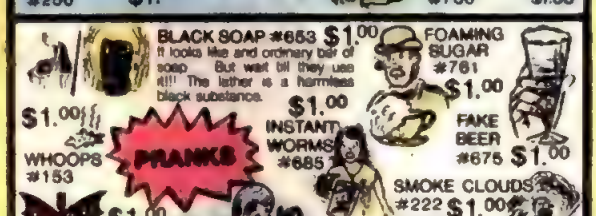
VENUS FLY TRAP
The most unusual plant in the world! Eats flies, bugs, insects, even meat. Instructions & special soil included. #202 $1.50
SKULL FLASHLITE #952 $1.50
MONEY MAKER
Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine... turn the knob. PRESTO from the other side COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a dollar bill & see it change to a $5.00 or $10.00!
#750 $1.50
HYPNOTISM
FREE HYPNO-COIN WITH 25 LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM
Hypnotize at a glance! Make people obey your commands, strengthen memory
#250 $1.50
DOGGIE DOO #807 $1.50


BLACK SOAP #653 $1.00
It looks like and ordinary bar of soap. But wait till they use it!!! The lather is a harmless black substance.
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$1.00
INSTANT WORMS #685
FAKE BEER #675 $1.00
WHOOPS #153
PRANKS
SMOKE CLOUDS #222 $1.00
$1.00 #812 $1.00
Just a few drops on your skin. It works like you're really bleeding. Absolutely safe. Large tube
BLOODY MESS SOAP #695
Just light one and thick clouds rise to the ceiling. Watch them fill the room! Used for magic tricks, signaling, etc.

FUN FACTORY DEPT. D-1037
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#008 20 shots $1.00

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An amazing illusion! Apparently see thru bones, thru skin, thru clothes, etc. Thrill and embarrass your friends.
#655 $1.75

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Looks like real book but opens to reveal combination lock safe.
#660 $2.95

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This bulb, when held in hand, lights whenever desired. A spectator can NOT make it light unless he knows the secret.
#143 $2.25

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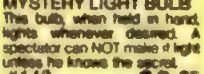

SPUD GUN
New! Fast action gun that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 feet! More than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless. #300 $1.50

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#264 $3.00

ARMY MEDALS
#908 $1.00

HA HA HA HA HA!! IT'S THE INFAMOUS MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!

Milk Duds
Milk Duds

EAT THIS, YOU LILY-LIVERED SUPER-DO-GOODERS!!!

Superduds of America, unite! Evildoers, take heart!

If all those (yecch!) superheroes can have their own sweepstakes, so can we. So there.

See the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes entry blank? Of course you do. Just fill it out and put it in the mailbox.

And I never thought I'd be saying this, but be sure you follow all the rules. Or else.

A SUPERVILLAINOUS PLOT!

For you Milk Duds, Slo Poke, and Black Cow eaters out there, we're giving away a special super-speed Superdudprize. (Read all about it, a little later on.)

In the incomparably devious and fiendishly clever tradition of our dishonorable profession, we've also arranged to smuggle your entry into the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes. Where you'll have a chance to win all sorts of goodies at their expense.

And the first wise guy who says "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" is going to get it, pow, right in the kisser.

THE DEVIOUS DIVIDENDS OF DUD-DOM!

Now for the spoils of victory. The rich rewards of wretchedness.

If you hit it really lucky and win first prize, you and your family (limit four people) will get to fly to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

You'll be taken on a personal tour of the DC Comics offices, where an artist will draw you right into an upcoming issue of your favorite DC comic. You'll be part of the action, along with one of the famous DC superheroes. (So, big deal.)

You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, just as soon as your comic-book caper is published, you'll get 15 copies for your family and crummy friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

If you happen to be one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your own Famous Superhero (Boo! Hiss!) or Infamous Superdud watch.

You'll have your pick of the ugly mugs of Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, or Spider-Man. Or (for those of you with refined tastes) the villainous visage of the Joker.

The watches are Swiss-made, with pictures in full color, and sell (a real steal) for $19.95 and $23.95.

© DC COMICS INC 1978

If you should be one of 100 third-prize winners, you'll get a year's subscription to your favorite DC or Marvel comic book. Ms. Marvel, Green Lantern, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Captain America, Red Sonja, Plastic Man, Wonder Woman, Justice Society, you name it. Even that namby-pamby Little Lulu.

SPECIAL SUPER-SPEED GRAND AND VICTORIOUS SUPERDUDPRIZE!

Okay. We promised. So here it is. In addition to drawings for the prizes you've just read about, everybody who enters the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes automatically gets entered in a special drawing.

And ten of those people, maybe even you, will win themselves Schwinn ten-speed bicycles.

Good for escaping from overzealous superheroes.

Of course, wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke or Black Cow can also help you get all kinds of super premiums. Details are in the famous Clark Bar ads.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill out the entry blank—the (ugh!) rules say you've got to print—and mail your entry back before November 1, 1978.

It's so simple, even a superhero could probably do it.

THE INFAMOUS MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!

P.O. Box 55 Chicago, Illinois 60677

1. Complete the coupon below and send it to Chicago (the rest).
2. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 15, 1978.
3. Prizes will be awarded in approximately equal value.
4. Winners will be notified by mail.
5. Prizes will be awarded in approximately equal value.
6. Winners will be notified by mail.
7. Prizes will be awarded in approximately equal value.
8. Winners will be notified by mail.
9. Prizes will be awarded in approximately equal value.
10. Winners will be notified by mail.

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DC

EXTRA DAILY PLANET T.M. EXTRA

Volume 78 Issue 31 | Week of July 31, 1978 | Bob Rozakis: Editor | Anthony Tollin: Production

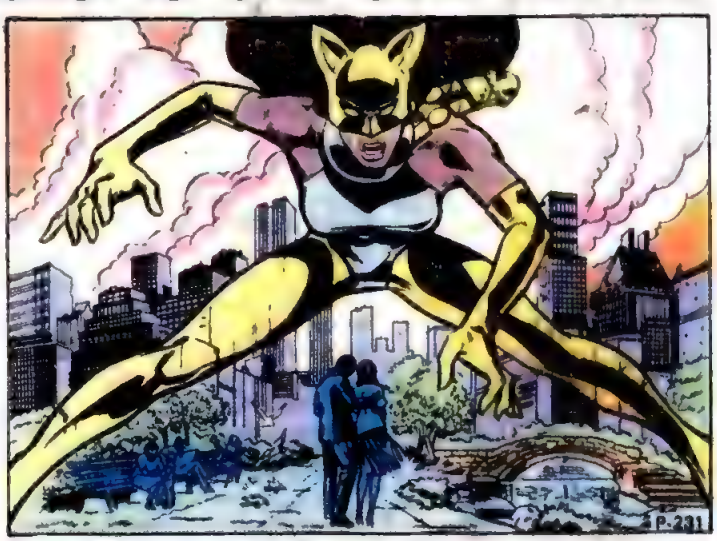
THE VIXEN DISRUPTS U.N. CONFERENCE!

CITY WONDERS, "WHO IS THE VIXEN?"

(New York) President Manitoba of D'Mulla was attacked by a mysterious woman today as he entered a United Nations peace conference. Reports as to his attacker vary, but one thing is certain. . *The Vixen* is on the loose!

Her name is Mari McCabe, a New York fashion model with a dark and forgotten past. Forgotten that is, until the Tantu Totem, an ancient African talisman, revives her memory. Now, imbued with the spirits of the lion, antelope and fox, she is mere Mari McCabe no more.

Gerry Conway created and scripted *The Vixen;* designed and pencilled by Bob Oksner and inked by Vince Colletta, *THE VIXEN* #1 goes on sale the week of August 8th.



DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF AUGUST 7th

BRAVE & BOLD #144—*Batman* and *Green Arrow* join forces to find "The Arrow of Eternity" in a Bob Haney/Jim Aparo collaboration. Plus: Len Wein and Dick Giordano sign the *Human Target*'s name to the "Symphony For the Devil Contract".

OUR FIGHTING FORCES #182—*The Losers* get some unexpected aid from "Young Losers—Young Lions" in a Robert Kanigher/George Evans tale. Plus: *Captain Storm* in "Battle of the Half-Men" by Bart Regan and Fred Carrillo. And a new *HQ Confidential* tale: "The Missile Jockey" by Kanigher and Maurice Whitman.

SUPERMAN #329—The Man of Steel's showdown with the Kryptonoid in "I Have Met the Enemy—and It Is Me" by Martin Pasko, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte. Plus: *Mr & Mrs Superman* make an investment and learn the "Secret of the Talking Car" by Cary Bates, Kurt Schaffenberger and Frank Giacoia.

UNEXPECTED #188—George Kashdan and Bill Payne deliver a "Verdict From the Grave"; Jack Philips and E.R. Cruz show what it's like "To Die of Laughter"; Carl Wessler and Ernie Guanlao present "And In This Corner: Death"; Wessler and Gerry Talaoc open "The Locked Room"; and Wessler and Ernie Chan prove "Murder Can Be Fatal!"

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #305 / *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #3 (*Superman & Adam Strange*) / *DOORWAY TO NIGHTMARE* #6 / *THE FLASH* #267 / *JONAH HEX* #18 / *JUSTICE LEAGUE* #160 / *MEN OF WAR* #10

HUMANS BATTLE MUTANTS IN WEIRD WAR TALES

(Earth, The Day After Doomesday) Mutant creatures set upon one of the last remaining pockets of mankind today in an attempt to halt their march to the last city remaining on this war torn world! Learn what fate awaits in your future in "The Day After Doomsday," by Jack Oleck and Alex Nino in *WEIRD WAR TALES* #69.

Leading off this issue is "The Phantom With My Face," a tale of a World War II medic and pacifist . . . and the mysterious protector from his future, by Scott Edelman and Romeo Tanghal.

And Howard Chaykin contributes pencils and inks to a Jack C. Harris script entitled "Atrocities," a story of mankind's frighteningly possible future! And finally there is "The Soldiers From Heaven," an Arnold Drake/Bill Draut/Bob Smith collaboration about man's greed and a god's vengeance in the time of the Spanish Conquistadors.

Be sure not to miss these stories of past, present and future in *WEIRD WAR TALES* #69, on sale the week of August 8th.

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Where is *Bat - Mite*?—Matt Kurtz. *A:* The imp is scheduled to appear in *BATMAN FAMILY* #23!

Q: Where is Wayne Manor?—Tim Sexton. *A:* In the suburbs surrounding Gotham City.

Q: How about putting the *Superman* of Earth-2 in his own book?—Loren Lassiter. *A:* He stars in his own feature in *SUPERMAN*, "Mr & Mrs Superman"!

Q: When did *ADVENTURE COMICS* first appear?—Michael Cevarr. *A:* It began as *NEW COMICS* in December, 1935, became *NEW ADVENTURE* with #12 in January, 1937, and was finally *ADVENTURE COMICS* with #31 in October, 1938.

Q: What happened to the "100 Issues Ago in JLA" feature?—Brian Robson. *A:* It was eliminated to give you more pages of new stories and art!

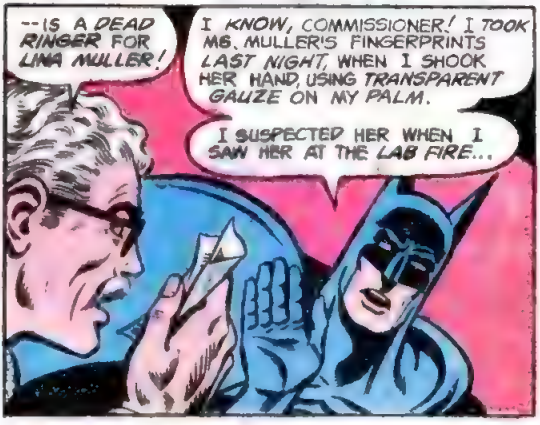
Q: Do the *Superman* and *Batman* newspaper strips still run?—Robert Butts. *A:* No, but they appear with the rest of the *JLA* in *THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHEROES* strip! Write to your newspaper if they don't already carry it!

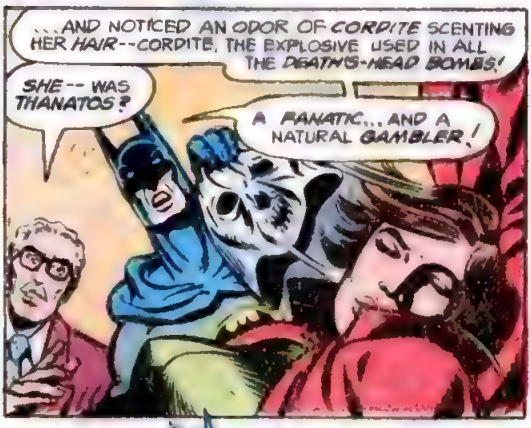
BUT, OUTSIDE...
COMMISSIONER GORDON! JUST GOT A CALL! THE S.T.A.R. LAB PEOPLE HAVE SIFTED THROUGH THE RUBBLE FROM THE FIRE--THEY KNOW WHAT WAS TAKEN!
DEAR LORD!
IT WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL PORTABLE ATOMIC BOMB!
BLAST! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN... I'D HEARD ABOUT THAT EXPERIMENT THROUGH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, BUT I WAS SO CONCERNED WITH THIS OTHER MYSTERY--
COMMISSIONER, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A SEARCH! WHEN THE DEATH'S-HEAD FIGURES OUT HOW TO ACTIVATE THAT BOMB, THEY WILL...
LISTEN CLOSELY... THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO!
TERSELY, HE EXPLAINS, BUT BEFORE HE CAN FINISH --
NO! IT'S INSANITY! YOU'RE STILL HOOKED BY THAT GAMBLING FEVER--
--AND YOU'RE TAKING AN IMPOSSIBLE CHANCE!
COMMISSIONER, FOR THE SAKE OF EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE... DO WHAT I SAY!
JUST HOLD ON TO MY UTILITY BELT!
NINE P.M. -- ACROSS THE CITY OF GOTHAM, IN THOUSANDS OF HOMES, PRIME-TIME TV PROGRAMS ARE INTERRUPTED BY A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN...
AND IN A LUSH MIDTOWN HOTEL ROOM, THE INTERRUPTION IS LIKE A BOMB-BLAST...
QUIET, ALL OF YOU! LISTEN--!
ATTENTION, DEATH'S-HEAD--
--THIS IS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, OFFERING A CHALLENGE ON BEHALF OF THE BATMAN!
MEET HIM ON GOTHAM ISLE, AT MIDNIGHT! AND HE WILL FIGHT YOU-- WITHOUT POLICE SUPPORT-- UTILITY BELT-- OR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND!
I REPEAT--
SHUT IT OFF!
14

SO THE BATMAN WANTS TO CHALLENGE US, DOES HE? THE HERO-WARRIOR OF THE BOURGEOIS... VERSUS THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY!
WE'LL ACCEPT THAT CHALLENGE!
IT SHOULD PROVE MOST... FASCINATING!
THE STARSCRAPER IS SILENT AND DARK THIS EVENING; THERE ARE NO REVELERS HERE TONIGHT, THOUGH THERE ARE GAMBLERS OF A DIFFERENT KIND...
AT THE FERRY LANDING, A MOTORBOAT DOCKS, AND SIX WARY FIGURES DEBARK, GRINNING LIKE WOLVES PREPARING FOR A SLAUGHTER...
BUT THEY AREN'T THE ONLY WOLVES HERE THIS MIDNIGHT--
--AND THE SEVENTH WOLF HAS WITS FOR CLAWS...
WHAT'S THAT?
A GIANT ROULETTE BALL! --DUCK!
BWAAM
BRATATATATAT
15

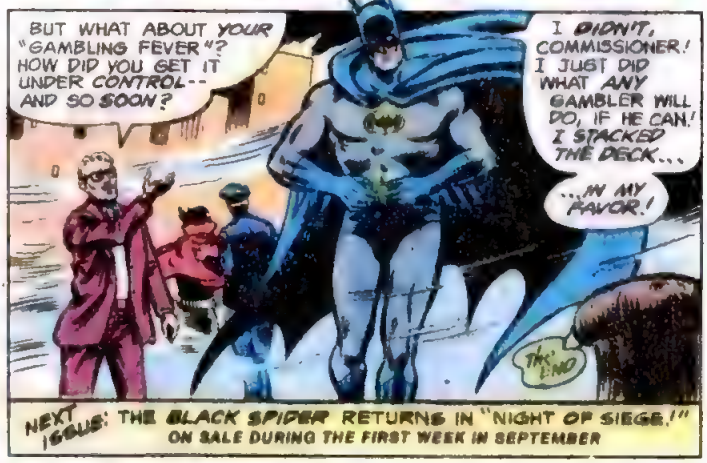
KLANNNGG
BRATATATATATATATATATAT
THWUNK
ZOK
JAMMED! JAMMED!
YOU SWINE! YOU SAID YOU'D USE NO WEAPONS! YOU SWORE!
I DIDN'T USE WEAPONS, THANATOS! I GAMBLED... AND I WON!
THIS WAS MY CHOICE OF BATTLEFIELD, MY GAMBLING HOUSE...
CHK CHK CHK
...AND YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO...
FWOOSH
KLASHKTASHKBLANGGLINGGLING

EPILOGUE
A POLICE PIER IN LOWER GOTHAM CITY, AS A STIFF WIND CARRIES A STENCH OF DECAY OFF THE BLACK-WATER BAY...
BATMAN... THAT MATERIAL YOU GAVE ME, TO CHECK WITH INTERPOL--
--THOSE FINGERPRINTS BELONG TO SOPHIA SANTOS, A NOTORIOUS ITALIAN TERRORIST! BUT THE PHOTO INTERPOL SENT US--


--IS A DEAD RINGER FOR LINA MULLER!
I KNOW, COMMISSIONER! I TOOK MS. MULLER'S FINGERPRINTS LAST NIGHT, WHEN I SHOOK HER HAND, USING TRANSPARENT GAUZE ON MY PALM.
I SUSPECTED HER WHEN I SAW HER AT THE LAB FIRE...


...AND NOTICED AN ODOR OF CORDITE SCENTING HER HAIR--CORDITE, THE EXPLOSIVE USED IN ALL THE DEATHS-HEAD BOMBS!
SHE-- WAS THANATOS?
A FANATIC... AND A NATURAL GAMBLER!

I WATCHED HER WHEN SHE WAS AT THE STARSCRAPER CASINO WITH BRUCE WAYNE. SHE WAS COMPLETELY CAUGHT UP IN THE GAMBLING THRILL...
...AND I KNEW SHE COULD NEVER RESIST THE ULTIMATE GAMBLE OF TESTING HERSELF... AGAINST ME!
SHE TOOK A RISK... AND WALKED INTO A TRAP!


BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR "GAMBLING FEVER"? HOW DID YOU GET IT UNDER CONTROL-- AND SO SOON?
I DIDN'T, COMMISSIONER! I JUST DID WHAT ANY GAMBLER WILL DO, IF HE CAN! I STACKED THE DECK...
...IN MY FAVOR!
THE END

NEXT ISSUE: THE BLACK SPIDER RETURNS IN "NIGHT OF SIEGE!" ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

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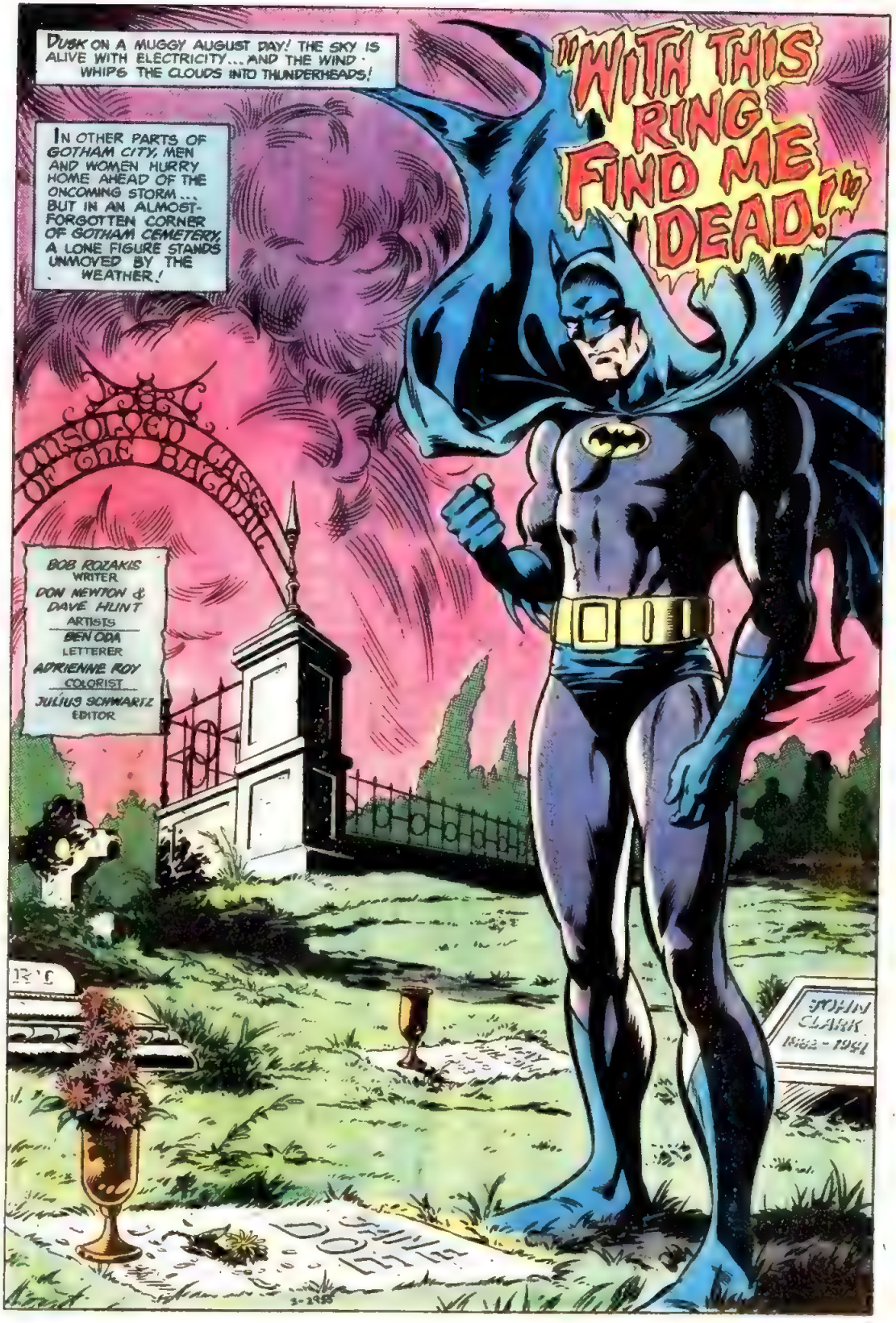
DUSK ON A MUGGY AUGUST DAY! THE SKY IS ALIVE WITH ELECTRICITY... AND THE WIND WHIPS THE CLOUDS INTO THUNDERHEADS!
IN OTHER PARTS OF GOTHAM CITY, MEN AND WOMEN HURRY HOME AHEAD OF THE ONCOMING STORM... BUT IN AN ALMOST-FORGOTTEN CORNER OF GOTHAM CEMETERY, A LONE FIGURE STANDS UNMOVED BY THE WEATHER!
"WITH THIS RING FIND ME DEAD!"
UNSOLVED CASES OF THE BATMAN
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
DON NEWTON & DAVE HUNT ARTISTS
BEN ODA LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
JOHN CLARK 1862 - 1941
JANE DOE

MANY BELIEVE THE BATMAN TO BE A COLD, UNCARING CREATURE... DEDICATED TO THE RUTHLESS PURSUIT OF CRIMINALS--
COULD THEY READ HIS THOUGHTS TONIGHT, THEY MIGHT CHANGE THAT OPINION!
EVER SEE THIS BEFORE, BATMAN?
BOXING
MAIN EVENT
ONLY REASON I ASK IS BECAUSE OF THE INSCRIPTION--
"TO MY DARLING WIFE. LOVE, THE BATMAN."
IT'S THE ONLY IDENTIFICATION WE FOUND ON HER, AND IF IT REALLY MEANS WHAT IT SAYS...
...WELL, THEN, I'M DEEPLY SORRY OLD FRIEND!
OF COURSE, I PREFER TO THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF BIZARRE HOAX!
BATMAN--?
WE'VE ALREADY RUN A PRELIMINARY CHECK ON THE GIRL'S FINGERPRINTS -- NO RECORD!
THERE ARE STILL DENTAL RECORDS, OF COURSE... AND THE CHANCE SOMEONE WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE BODY!
WELL, BATMAN--?
I'LL HANG ON TO THE RING, COMMISSIONER ...AND I'LL BE IN TOUCH!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DEAD GIRL? DO YOU KNOW HER?
IS SHE... MRS. BATMAN?
2

NOT LONG AFTER, IN THE BATCAVE BENEATH WAYNE MANOR...
THE RING ISN'T VERY DISTINCTIVE TO THE NAKED EYE--BUT THIS ENLARGED VIEW WILL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO FEED THE COMPUTER!
GLAKITAGLAKITA
NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS WILL GIVE ME A BREAKDOWN OF THE RING'S COMPOSITION--
QUARTZ .00217%
SODIUM CHLORIDE .00105%
VEGETABLE MATTER .00078%
[CLASSIFICATION: SEAWEED--TYPE: KELP]
SOLID GOLD... WITH THE USUAL ALLOWANCE FOR TRACE METALS...
GOLD 98.7%
LEAD .6%
IRON .3%...
QUARTZ, SALT AND SEAWEED, EH? NOW TO HAVE THE COMPUTER FILTER THAT INFO AND GIVE ME A PROBABLE LOCATION!
CLAKITAGLAK
TAK TAGLAKITA
CLOSING IN ON IT...
70° WEST
44° NORTH
THE COAST OF MAINE--NEXT STOP!
3

LIKE A LASER THROUGH STEEL, THE BATPLANE SLICES THE PRE-DAWN SKY...
AND AS SOL'S FIRST RAYS USHER IN A NEW DAY, THE BATMAN SETS TO WORK...
...BUT NOT AS THE BATMAN!--
231
JEREMY PARKINS
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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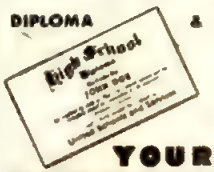

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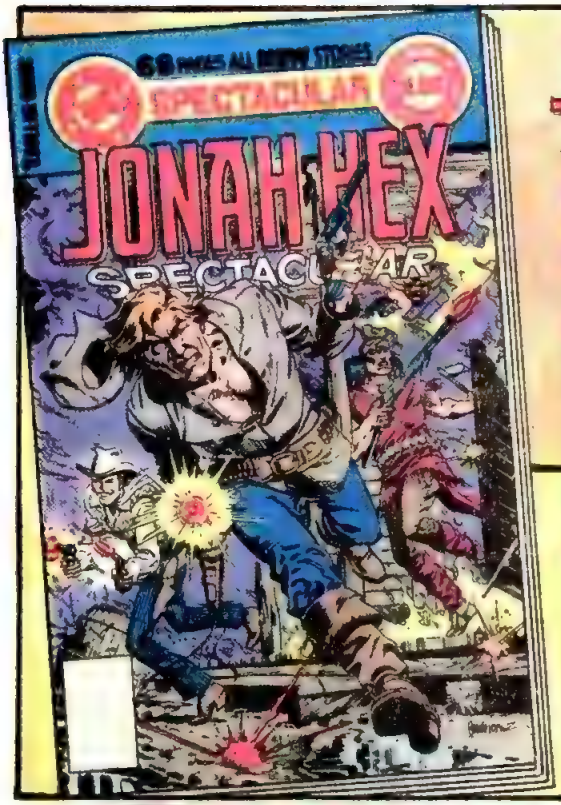
LET ME GET MY RECORD BOOK... WON'T TAKE A MINUTE!
NO RUSH, FRIEND! NICE WORK YOU DO HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT, TOM! HE'S GOT MARTHA CARTER'S WEDDING BAND!
'COURSE I'M SURE! I KNOW MY OWN WORK! HE MUST'VE KILLED THE CARTERS FOR IT! GET SOME OF THE BOYS OVER HERE--FAST!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
MADE SO MANY OF THESE THINGS, IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF 'EM--
--OH YES, HERE IT IS! MADE THAT ONE FIVE YEARS AGO--FOR DAVE CARTER! HAD IT ENGRAVED, "TO MY DARLING WIFE"!
NOW HOW'D YOU SAY YOU GOT IT--?
I DIDN'T... BUT IF YOU'D TELL ME HOW TO FIND DAVE CARTER, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO HIM!
YOU'LL EXPLAIN NOW, MISTER--
--TO US!
HOLD ON, TOM-- I TOLD YOU NO VIOLENCE IN MY SHOP!

DON'T WORRY, JEREMY!
YOU LOOK LIKE A SMART MAN, MISTER--
--SO WHEN WE TELL YOU TO COME ALONG WITH US TO THE SHERIFF'S STATION, YOU'LL COME!
I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW I'D NEVER GET THERE ALIVE!
MAYBE SO--BUT CONSIDERIN' WHAT YOU MUSTA DONE TO MARTHA CARTER TO GET THAT THERE RING--
--YOU DON'T DESERVE TO!
SWISHH
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO USE THIS, MISTER--
--BUT YOU WILL IF YOU HAVE TO, RIGHT?
WRONG!
THWAKK!
NyAAHHHH!
A WISE GUY, EH? LET ME SHOW YOU JUST HOW DUMB THAT MOVE WAS!
NO--LET ME SHOW YOU!
SLAMM!
6



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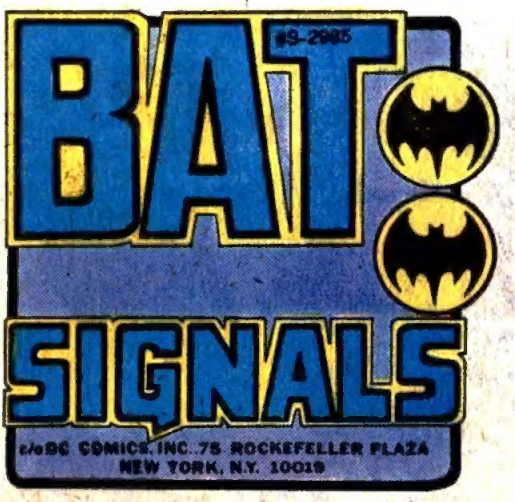
HE'S WRECKING YOUR FRIENDS, PARKINS... SO SHUT UP AND HELP ME!
BAD CHOICE, MISTER--BARE HANDS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY CLUB!
OH--?
I THINK IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
K-CHOK
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF A MATCH YOU ARE FOR BARE HANDS--!
HOLD IT!
SWEET MOTHER--
--DAVE AND MARTHA! YOU'RE ALIVE!?
THAT'S RIGHT, JEREMY...
I STILL HAVE MY WEDDING RING, TOO!
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU TRYIN' TO START HERE, PARKINS? HALF THE TOWN THINKS WE WERE MURDERED AND ROBBED!
AND, SHORTLY...
LOOKING AT THEM, I'D SWEAR I
MADE BOTH RINGS--YET I KNOW I ONLY MADE ONE...
...AND EXCEPT FOR THE INSCRIPTION, I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH!
WHICH LEAVES ME AT A DEAD END ON "MRS. BATMAN'S" IDENTITY!

WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY OR MISSION, A PUZZLED BATMAN RETURNS TO GOTHAM...
...AND, SOME DAYS LATER...
STILL BOTHERED ABOUT THE MURDER OF THAT YOUNG WOMAN, MASTER BRUCE?
YES, ALFRED! NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE BATMAN CAN IDENTIFY HER!
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS WOMAN?
NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW WHO SHE IS, WHERE SHE CAME FROM OR WHY SHE WAS KILLED--
--NOBODY BUT ME!
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE PAST MY INTRUDER-ALARM SYSTEM?
...THANKS TO THESE SPECIAL "X-RAY" PHOTOS--I ALSO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, BRUCE WAYNE--ALIAS THE BATMAN!
THAT IS UNIMPORTANT! WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT I NOT ONLY KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GIRL...
THESE PHOTOS PROVE NOTHING! ANYONE COULD DOCTOR UP "EVIDENCE" LIKE THIS!
TRUE... BUT I HAVE OTHER EVIDENCE THAT CANNOT BE FAKED--OR DENIED!
I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF USING IT SO LONG AS OUR PATHS NEVER CROSS! IT IS, SHALL WE SAY, MY ANTI-BATMAN INSURANCE!
TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION, BATMAN --I ADMIT MURDERING THAT WOMAN, BUT YOU DARE NOT BRING ME TO JUSTICE!
YOU SEE, IF YOU EVEN TRY TO BRING ME IN...
...IT WILL BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER DO!
READER -- WHAT WOULD YOU DO? PONDER YOUR ANSWER AND THEN JOIN US NEXT ISSUE TO LEARN THE BATMAN'S DECISION IN THE MYSTERY MURDERER OF "MRS. BATMAN"!



Dear Editor:

Re: *BATMAN* #300. An unrestrained hurrah for Walt Simonson and Dick Giordano, and a rather hesitant "ditto" for David V. Reed.

All I had heard of this anniversary issue was that it would be a double-length science-fiction story about *The Batman's* last case. I was dreading it. I'm old enough to remember those awful years when *Batman* and *Robin* (usually with the rest of the *Bat-Family* in tow) would jump from planet to planet and dimension to dimension, meeting creepy aliens with stun-rays.

Thankfully, David V. Reed's "The Last Batman Story—?" was nothing like that, but was, in fact, a stunning presentation of legitimate science-projection. Reed must be some sort of amateur technological prophet; his glimpse of the near future seemed remarkably on the beam. The incorporation of the major metropolitan areas into a megalopolis; the space-hospital; everything was so impressive. Especially pages 10 and 11, when *Batman* and *Robin* tilted the hologram image of Annie Morgan on the beach to see what she had written on the sand. Nice touch.

Of course, Walt Simonson's tremendous use of scale helped make the enormity of these advances much more plausible. I can't help thinking what a tremendous milestone a space-hospital would be, but Simonson's portrayal of it made it seem like the logical next step down the line.

As impressed as I was by Reed's projection and by his intricate plot, I can't help but feel uncomfortable with the idea of *The Batman* running around in a world so far down the road, technologically speaking. Looking at Simonson's Megalopolis-East, I can't imagine many dark alleys or abandoned warehouses, the kind of tableaux so many *Batman* stories have played across. If anything, *Batman* belongs in a more elemental setting, in which steel-edged nerves and a razor-sharp wit are needed to fight crime in the absence of technology. Of course, perhaps that was the message of the story; after all, *Batman* did retire at the end of it, perhaps realizing that he was a relic in a world that had passed him by. But, really, is that any way to celebrate a 300th anniversary?

But let's let that pass, shall we? For all of its conceptual weak points, I can't really fault Reed's story for daring to be *different*. If only we could expect something like this more often! Certainly, the appeal of "imaginary stories" hasn't died; if anything, it's just undergone a shift in emphasis. Those same stories are called parallel world stories now and I'm certain that *BATMAN* #300 is a legitimate telling of an alternate-Earth's *Batman's* career. More of the same would be in order.

Once more, kudos to Walt Simonson and Dick Giordano. I have heard that Walt was called in at the proverbial last minute to pencil the story. You could have fooled me; it looks like he spent months on it. And Dick Giordano is such a sight for sore eyes. He's a consistently excellent inker and I'm delighted to see him teamed with Simonson for the first time.

Reed's only unforgiveable (intentional?) sin was omitting the women in the Dynamic Duo's lives. Did *Robin* really marry a pedestrian pea-brain like Lori or did he find someone as exciting and exotic as himself? And did Bruce finally wind up falling in love with *Talia?* Or *Silver?* Or *Catwoman?* Or someone else? Since this story is hardly binding, it wouldn't have hurt to let us know.

One last, very general anniversary note: I haven't missed an issue of *BATMAN* since #158 way back in 1963. Since then people and places have rushed in and out of my life at an alarming rate. I'd just like to thank *BATMAN* for giving my life a little much-needed consistency (and a lot of much-appreciated enjoyment)! It's nice to know that whatever tomorrow holds for me, I can count on something! Here's to the next hundred!

BOB RODI
Box 2176
Rollins College
Winter Park, FL 32789

When an issue sparks a long-time reader like you to write such an all-encompassing letter, we feel obligated to print it all, Bob. And by the way, while the identity of Batman's love is left open, there is a definite clue to who Mrs. Grayson is . . . though no one has caught it! Reread the issue, folks, and see if you can guess!—BR

* * * * *

Dear Batmaniacs,

BATMAN #300 was indescribable! It topped everything you've done for a landmark issue since I've been reading your comics. Even *SUPERMAN* #300 . . . and *SHOWCASE* #100 . . . and *GREEN LANTERN* #100. The cover was striking with its black background and grim-faced Bruce Wayne unmasking forever. Who did this masterpiece?

David V. Reed did a superb job writing "The Last Batman Story—?" This was compounded by the beautiful art of Walt Simonson and Dick Giordano. One thing I objected to, though, was the failure to reveal the names of Bruce's fiancée and Dick's wife. Maybe you could pick up on this when #350 comes out in May, 1982.

The "The End—?" on page 34 was a nice touch, as was the use of *Robin's* Earth-2 costume. (You know, on Earth-2 at that point in the future, *Batman* would probably be dead and *Robin* would be the one retiring!)

I waited a full year for *BATMAN* #300 . . . and it was well worth the wait!

PAUL BALZE
116 Crest Ave.
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The cover was the handiwork of Dick Giordano! As for BATMAN #350, we've got something more important coming up that same month, since DETECTIVE COMICS #500 also rolls around in May, 1982!—Bob Rozakis

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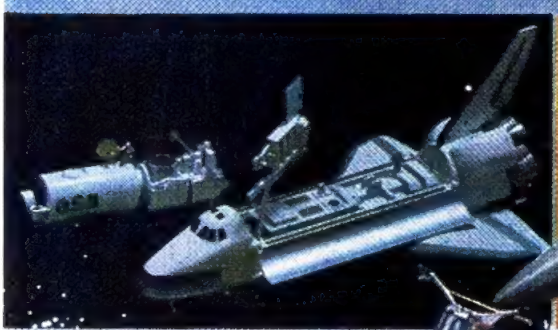
Right. Down to the last detail.



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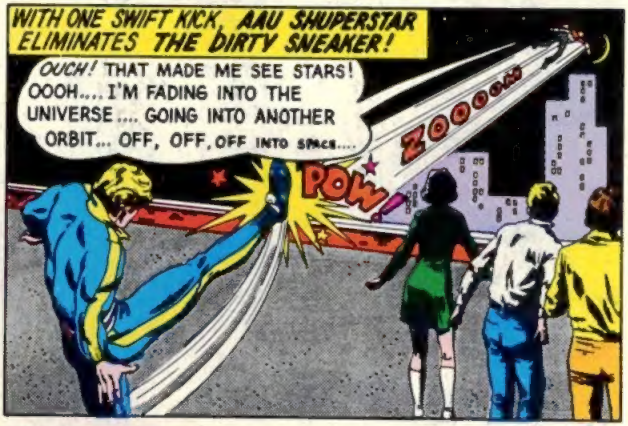
THE WAY I PLAN IT, THIS PLANET WILL BE DESTROYED WHEN I HIT THEM WITH THE DEATH RAY HIDDEN IN MY DIRTY DANCING SNEAKERS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, DIRTY SNEAKER? THIS BOOGIE CONTEST ISN'T OPEN TO BOOGEY MEN!

HA! AAU SHUPERSTAR DOESN'T KNOW MY ELECTRONIC DEATH-RAY IS ACTIVATED BY THE SONG, "STAYIN' ALIVE"! AS SOON AS IT'S PLAYED, NO ONE BUT ME WILL BE STAYIN' ALIVE!
I'M GOING TO KEEP MY EYE ON THE DIRTY SNEAKER'S SNEAKERS! IF HE TAKES ONE FALSE STEP, I'LL TRIP HIM WITH MY SHUPERSTRUCTERED AAU SHOES!

THIS IS IT! THE NEXT NUMBER WILL BE "STAYIN' ALIVE"! WHEN THE MUSIC STARTS, THE DEATH-RAY WILL SELF-ACTIVATE!
MY SHUPERNATURAL POWERS TELL ME THERE'S TROUBLE AFOOT NOW!


WITH ONE SWIFT KICK, AAU SHUPERSTAR ELIMINATES THE DIRTY SNEAKER!
OUCH! THAT MADE ME SEE STARS! OOOH.... I'M FADING INTO THE UNIVERSE.... GOING INTO ANOTHER ORBIT... OFF, OFF, OFF INTO SPACE....
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ZOOOOM

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